

JUN 11 1943

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 39

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

JUNE 14, 1943

French Unity Aids The United Nations

National Committee to Act for
French Interests Until Nation
Is Liberated

DE GAULLE, GIRAUD AT HELM

Most of French Empire Has Now Been
Lined up with Coalition of
United Nations

This month marks the third anniversary of the surrender of France. It is especially fitting that this anniversary should witness the first successful attempt since that surrender to establish unity among the French forces outside the motherland who are fighting against the common enemy.

During the last half year the central figures in this struggle for unity have been General Henri Honoré Giraud, civil and military commander in chief in North Africa, and General Charles de Gaulle, head of the French National Committee in London, better known as the Fighting French Movement. Between them these two men speak for practically all Frenchmen, and exercise physical control of the entire overseas empire with the exception of Indo-China, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. Ever since these two leaders met at the Casablanca conference last January, there have been powerful forces, including British and American diplomats and Allied military leaders, working to bring them together in unity and harmony.

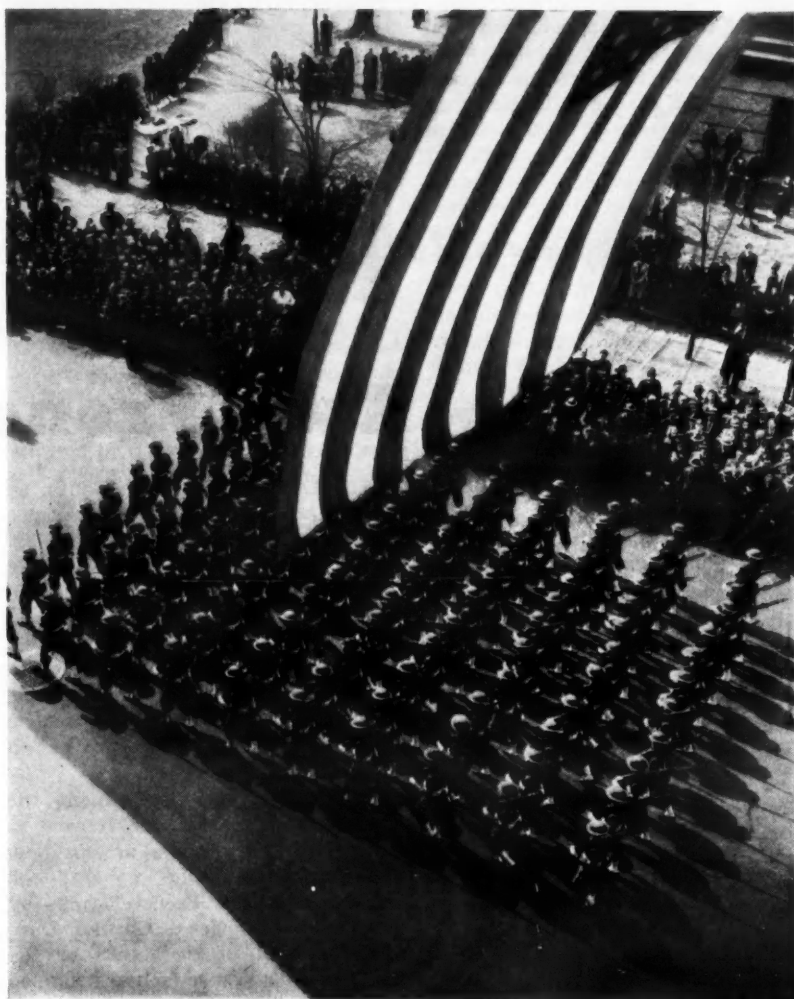
Politics of Resistance

Both men have finally recognized that the feud between them over "the politics of resistance" has weakened their common cause in the eyes of the world, and that if continued it would jeopardize the cause of France. It was this realization that brought them together in Algiers two weeks ago.

Generals de Gaulle and Giraud have long agreed on certain fundamentals—that France should once again take her place as one of the Allies, and that the 1940 armistice and the subsequent acts of the traitors of Vichy must be repudiated. But before the Algiers conference they disagreed on the nature of the council which should handle the affairs of France until a free government is set up again in the homeland. Giraud favored military control; de Gaulle insisted that the civilian authority should be dominant. De Gaulle also objected strongly to collaborationists who still held power in the government of North Africa. Finally, there was the all-important question of how to satisfy each leader's special claims to power in any new organization.

Out of the Algiers conference has come a compromise of some of these differences. Undoubtedly undercurrents of factionalism among the par-

(Concluded on page 6)



Long May It Wave!

ACME

Flag Day, 1943

By Walter E. Myer

The American Flag, always a symbol of national unity and purpose, becomes, now in these days of war, a symbol also of a more expanded unity, of the spirit of common purpose which binds the United Nations together. Accordingly Flag Day is being celebrated this year as United Nations Day. It is well that this should be done. No opportunity for cementing relations with our Allies or for emphasizing the importance of maintaining the alliance which binds us together, should be neglected.

It is impossible for nations to work or fight together and expend all their energies in a common cause, without difficulties and irritations. Issues will arise among them and some of the problems involved in the cooperative effort will test statesmanship and patience. But the obstacles in the way should not prove too dangerous, because of the greater danger into which all of us will fall if we do not work loyally together. The fact is that not one of the United Nations could survive without the support of the others. They must stand together or they will lose the war. This fact seems so apparent as not to require restating, but unfortunately a good many Americans appear unappreciative of the service our Allies are rendering us.

There is a section of American opinion that is very critical of Great Britain. It is minority opinion, but it is quite vocal and much in evidence. Complaint is made that the British are planning to shift the main burden of the war to us, that they will save their own men, and agree to an invasion attempt only when America is prepared to furnish the men. This charge was made recently by one of the most popular of our radio commentators. Isn't it a little early for us to assume that the British will fail to do their part, when to date they have borne the brunt of sacrifice and effort? For nearly four years they have held Germany at bay, for a time singlehandedly. Thus they gave us time to prepare. And even today they are carrying the heavy end of the load. Our armies did heroic work in Africa, but the driving of the Axis from Africa was chiefly a British job. So to date has been the bombing of Germany. The United States is now coming into a position to make greater contributions. It has been a work of terrific difficulty to transport armies and equipment across a submarine infested ocean. We have done marvelously well at that job. But only now are we getting ready to strike major blows against the enemy. How foolish and how dangerous it is, at this time, for Americans to belittle the contributions of the British and to predict that they will take undue advantage of us.

Equally foolish and dangerous are the frequent predictions that we cannot get along peacefully with Russia. There are no essential conflicts of interest among the Russians, the British, and ourselves. If we fall out it will be the result of a stupidity which should be avoided. These three nations and China must work together in war if there is to be victory. They and the other United Nations must work together in peace if civilization is to be saved.

War Brings Vital Changes to America

Aviation, Communications, Hous-
ing, Medicine Among Fields
Being Affected

GOVERNMENT ROLE DEBATED

Many Wartime Controls Expected to
Be Continued to Promote
Economic Stability

The victory that is in store for the United Nations, after more months of hard fighting, will usher in a world vastly different from the one we knew when war broke out in September 1939. It will also open the door to many changes in the United States; we shall not return to the nation that existed even so recently as December 1941.

No one can foresee all that the future holds, but wartime developments have clearly revealed some of the possibilities which may be expected, not only in aviation, but in communications, medicine, automobiles, housing, materials, government, education, and power, to name a few of the fields. The observation that "war is the locomotive of history" will be borne out as never before.

It is impossible, of course, to set precise dates for the changes to take place. Aviation, for example, will probably continue its progress without a break, but it may be a matter of several years or more before we see the kind of automobiles being predicted. A decade or more may elapse after the war ends before some of the other developments occur. But whatever the space of time required, here are some of the fields in which we may reasonably expect changes to take place:

1. Aviation. Many of the possibilities in air transportation are all too obvious to require repetition. Super planes, flying in the upper altitudes, above the obstacles of bad weather, are assured. By means of radio control—a further development of the new detecting instrument called radar—they may even take off and land in bad weather with complete safety. Suggestive of the new designs in planes is the "flying wing"—a craft consisting entirely of an exaggerated wing and thus lacking the conventional fuselage.

Military air transport routes now girdling the world will remain and be enlarged. Air bases may be located not only on islands and continents, but on man-made, floating steel islands placed along ocean routes. A leading air line has already applied for permission to construct several of these after the war. The technical maintenance of air routes, in fact, is less of a problem than the matter of insuring international co-operation in their use.

The capacities of tomorrow's planes can only be imagined. The Army's B-19 and the Navy's Mars point the way. The 70-ton Mars can carry

(Concluded on page 7)

Books In The News

Nurses' Role in the War

THE large-scale appearance of women in uniform is one of the innovations this war has brought about. But in each of our wars there have been women at the battlefronts, serving with tireless bravery as members of the Army Nurses Corps. The history of this gallant organization, and the part it is playing in the present struggle have been set down in two recent books, *Nurses in Action* (Philadelphia: Lippincott. \$2.50) by Colonel Julia O. Flikke, and *I Served on Bataan* (Philadelphia: Lippincott. \$1.75) by Lieutenant Juanita Redmond.

The latter tells the story of Bataan as seen through the eyes of a young Army nurse who was there to dodge its bombs and care for its wounded. Lieut. Redmond came to the Philippines in 1940. For a year, she lived a peaceful and pleasant life, treating colds and minor ailments in an up-to-date Manila hospital, playing golf

had escaped, was back on the job, caring for refugees and soldiers wounded in Corregidor's last stand. At last rescue planes took the final survivors to Australia and then home.

Lieut. Redmond's experiences, dramatic as they are, are not unique in the annals of Army nursing. Col Flikke's book fills out the picture of which the Bataan nurse's story is only a small part. *Nurses in Action* tells how today's strong, efficient corps grew up through the years, and how its members today are prepared for the tremendous job they must do.

From this book we learn that Army nursing dates back to the Revolution. There was no official corps then, but the untrained, ill-paid, volunteer woman of those days filled an important need. In the Civil War, there were more women used in Army hospitals. This conflict also marked the establishment of the Red Cross by Clara Barton, one of the hardest working of the women in army hospitals.

In 1901, Army nurses received official standing. Nurses had rendered such excellent services in the Spanish-American War that the Army gave up its restrictions and agreed not only to employ larger numbers of nurses, but to make them members of the Army itself.

Between the official organization of the Army Nurses Corps and the First World War, Army nurses rendered spectacular peacetime services. They were on hand during the San Francisco earthquake. They followed the regiments to Mexico during the action against bandit Pancho Villa. They helped rid the Philippines of a tragic health situation.

And when the First World War broke out, they were an experienced, soldier-like group, ready for the worst front-line action they might have to work through. More than half of the nurses registered in the Corps went to France before the war was over. And after the Armis-



U. S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS
Army nurse

and exploring the picturesque countryside in her hours off duty. Then came Pearl Harbor, and very shortly, the retreat to Bataan.

Here a woefully small number of nurses and doctors worked under increasingly primitive conditions. As newly wounded men crowded the meager facilities of their outpost hospital, beds were patched together out of bamboo. Medicines ran low, and makeshift treatments were devised. Soon doctors, nurses, and patients were on a schedule of two meals a day—with horse and carabao meat as staple items on the menu.

On March 30, 1942, the besieged hospital had its first air raid. Thereafter, bombings were frequent and savage. The men and women of the hospital learned that the red cross on the roof of their flimsy shelter was no safeguard when there were Japanese planes overhead. Before one raid, there were 1,600 beds in Lieut. Redmond's Bataan hospital. When the last plane had roared homeward, only 65 were still standing.

With attacks growing more numerous, and no means of repairing the damage, the tiny medical garrison was soon living in foxholes. Then came the final blow. Bataan fell, and all who could be moved were evacuated to Corregidor. Under constant crossfire from the rugged harbor fortress and enemy lines on the peninsula, a handful of nurses and doctors made port in a small boat.

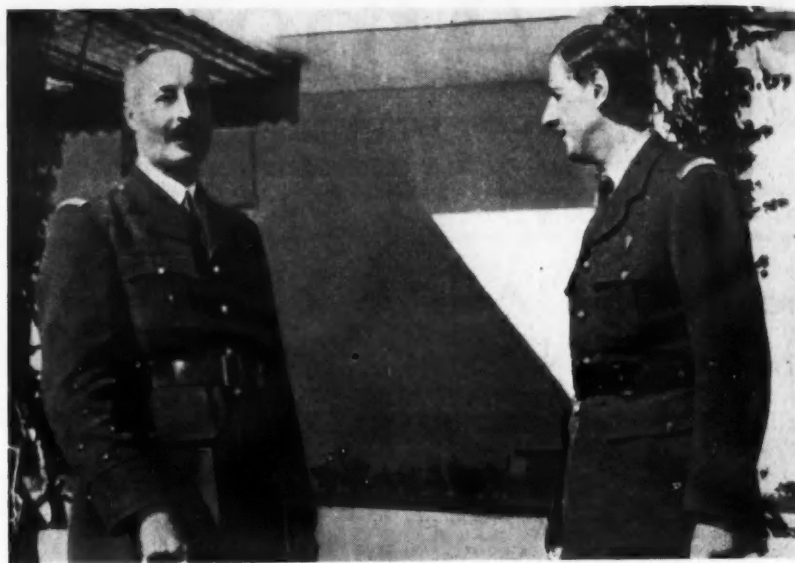
But there was no time to rest. Here, as on the peninsula, there was a shortage of medical workers. Soon Lieut. Redmond, with the others who



U. S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS
Gas mask drill is part of the routine training of Army nurses.

tice, more than a few returned with decorations for valor.

This, then, is the Army Nurses Corps—a group of technically educated, courageous women with a fine record of service to our country in both peace and war. The record before Pearl Harbor was impressive. Today's nurses, like Bataan veteran Juanita Redmond, are adding new and equally impressive chapters.



French unity at last—Generals de Gaulle and Giraud

Two French Leaders

THREE years ago this month an unhappy and bewildered France capitulated to the victorious Nazi Wehrmacht. As the French people looked on in stunned amazement, their defeatist leaders asked for—and signed—an armistice of defeat. In the forest of Compiègne they reenacted in reverse the scene of the armistice of 1918, and the outside world pronounced the French nation dead.

But there were those among the defenders of France who refused to accept defeat. Principal among them was a 50-year-old general—the youngest in the French army—by the name of Charles de Gaulle. During the final, tragic weeks of the campaign for France he had struggled in vain to stem the forces of appeasement, defeatism, and collaboration which undermined the French army and government. When the end came he was in London on a military mission. He was penniless, in a foreign land whose language he could not speak, without his family or influential friends, without any assurance that he would be supported by the British government. But he resolved to fight on, and while negotiations for an armistice were still pending he took to the radio to call upon his countrymen to join with him "in action, in sacrifice, and in hope."

And so, from the ashes of a dead France was born a new movement—first known as Free France and later named Fighting France—dedicated to the task of redeeming the honor of France and of destroying the Nazi power. The stirring appeals of General de Gaulle in London rekindled hope and the will to resist among French patriots in many parts of the far-flung empire.

The political turmoil which has swirled around de Gaulle in recent months is nothing new to him. As a brilliant young officer in the French army he was constantly getting into trouble with his superiors because of his unorthodox ideas. In the early '30's, while still only a colonel, he denounced the inadequacy of the static, old-fashioned military strategy epitomized in the Maginot Line, but his pleas for reform were fruitless.

It is deeply ironical that de Gaulle's revolutionary ideas about mechanized warfare were rejected by his own country as being impossible and undesirable, while they were adopted and used with terrifying advantage

by the Germans. Within one year after de Gaulle's book, *Toward a Professional Army*, was published, General Guderian, chief of the German tank corps, was building panzer divisions almost identical to the armored divisions suggested by his French rival.

While de Gaulle was encouraging the spark of French resistance from London, another French leader, General Henri Honoré Giraud, was languishing in a German prison camp. In May of 1940 the French Ninth Army had been led to disaster in the Meuse sector by an inexcusably stupid general, and Giraud had been rushed in at the last minute to try to save the situation. He was one of France's greatest tacticians and strategists, with long years of colonial experience. But it was too late; Giraud was surrounded by tanks and captured.

Already famous for his bold escape from a German prison camp in World War I, General Giraud made his name almost legendary by a mysterious and sensational second escape in the spring of 1941. When he arrived in Unoccupied France, he immediately expressed a determination to work for the freedom of his country. Both Marshal Pétain and Pierre Laval pleaded with him to return to his Koenigstein fortress prison, because he was obstructing "negotiations" between Vichy and Berlin. The Germans, too, tried to get back their coveted prize; they offered to release 70,000 French war prisoners if he would return freely. Not only did Giraud refuse, but at the time of the Allied invasion of North Africa he made good a third escape, to Algeria.

In Algiers Giraud's influence was undoubtedly an asset to the Allied expedition, and Giraud himself was soon leading French garrisons against German and Italian troops. Last December he was appointed by Darlan as a member of the French Imperial Council, and after the latter's death Giraud became high commissioner of all North Africa. It was in this capacity that he carried on negotiations with the Free French colonies and forces under de Gaulle toward uniting all Frenchmen in common action. Today that goal has been achieved, and at the age of 64 he stands with de Gaulle as the joint president of the new French Committee of National Liberation.

Modernizing Congress

AMERICA'S war effort has in the last two years brought about increasingly sharp controversy over the way our Congress functions. Criticism has gone beyond mere attacks on individual members or even factions within the legislative body. It has reached the point where many students of government believe there must be basic changes in the structure and operation of the lawmaking branch.

President vs. Congress

Tension has been heightened by the fact that at present there is a serious cleavage between the President and Congress. The latter claims that its powers are being usurped and warns of executive dictatorship. Sounding the keynote of the struggle, Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming declared: "Between January 7, 1941, and April 12, 1942, the President issued 500 executive orders. They were not written in the halls of Con-



"Enough to make a big man feel small"
THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

gress on the responsibility of men chosen by the public and known to the public. They were written in private by anonymous experts. They were not subject to public hearing nor were they analyzed in public debate. They did not become known to the public until issued—and then they were effective."

Senator O'Mahoney went on: "Here also are 66 laws put forth by federal agencies under the guise of directives, rules, and regulations—laws that were never seen by Congress prior to printing. This separation of authority and responsibility found in practically every bureaucratic establishment is the source of the evils of which the people complain."

Senator O'Mahoney had put his finger on the trend. As the federal service expands, as the power of the executive increases, more and more lawmaking is being done without the help of Congress. Executive directives regulate a widening field of our government. And in federal agencies "quasi-legislative" boards and committees are on the march.

This cannot be solely the result of a clash in ideas between the executive and the legislature. Most observers believe it points to some basic maladjustment in the latter branch. What kind of "streamlining" does Congress need before it can reassume its historic place as the nation's lawmaking authority?

The reasons most commonly given why the executive branch must rely on its own power for quick and effective action are (1) that congressional procedure is too slow and too clumsy to meet modern situations; (2) that congressmen are too much under the domination of pressure groups and lobbies to make laws in the interests of the whole people; (3) that congressmen are amateurs in many of the fields on which they debate, and (4) that in trying to check on federal agencies and bureaus, Congress retards the functioning of proper administration.

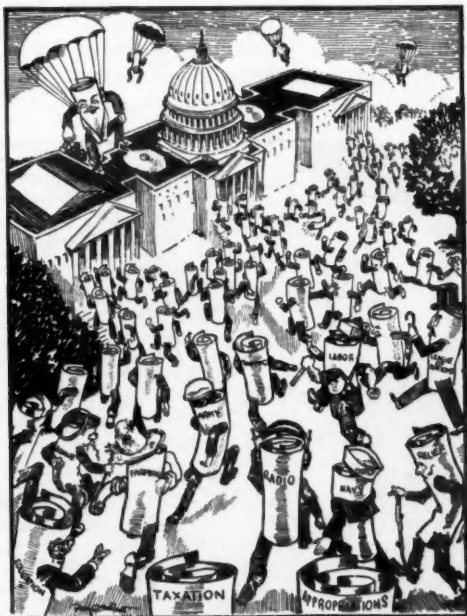
The Committee System

The traditional "committee system" has been cited as one cause for the above deficiencies. There are now 80 standing committees in the House and Senate, each covering a particular phase of lawmaking. Each is headed by the member oldest in congressional service. In addition there are at present about 25 special committees, appointed for temporary study of some vital question of the moment.

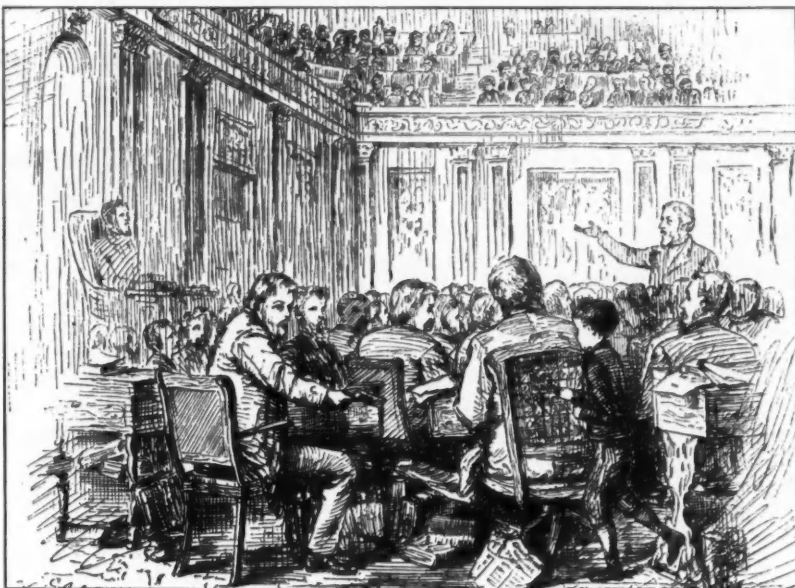
The revisions which have been suggested for congressional committees are numerous. One objection is that House and Senate committees overlap—for instance, the House alone maintains a Ways and Means Committee and an Appropriations Committee, both dealing with finances, and in the Senate there are parallel bodies. The suggestion is that the use of joint committees, in which representatives and senators may thrash out a given problem together, be increased. Also, it is advised that a single subject, such as the raising and allocation of funds, be restricted to a single committee.

Objection (4) as listed above is also laid at the doorstep of the committee system. Scores of special committees are now probing various aspects of the war effort. All of them have demanded lengthy hearings, in which administrative leaders are required to appear.

Even some congressmen have become critical of this procedure. "Is it any wonder," challenged Representative Dirksen on the floor of the House, "that we are criticized when we count up the score and find that Nelson of WPB has appeared before us 14 times in 15 months, and that Rubber Director Jeffers has, within



Literally thousands of bills are considered by each session of Congress.



DOES CONGRESS NEED MODERNIZING? Much congressional procedure has changed little since 1879 depicted in the above scene of the Senate Chamber.

10 days given testimony on the same problem before no less than five separate committees!"

Here again, most people feel that the use of joint committees would cut down waste motion for both congressmen and administrators.

One of the most challenged aspects of the committee system is the rule of seniority as the prime qualification for committee chairmanship. Critics of the practice point out that length of service does not in any way assure that a man is best qualified to hold the leadership of a particular committee.

Arthur Krock, chief of the New York Times Washington bureau, suggests an alternate system through which seniority might be dispensed with. According to Krock, a free, secret-ballot election of committee chairmen, or an election in party caucus, would give ability some chance to take precedence over length of service.

This proposal has met with vigorous opposition, however. It is pointed out that length of service in Congress admits that a senator or representative satisfies his constituents. It is also remarked that a strong executive with firm control over his party could and would in effect direct the supposedly free election of chairmen.

Activities of Lobbyists

The undercover activities of lobbyists—representatives of some special interest, who try to force Congress to pass legislation favorable to them—has been a favorite subject for reformers through the years. From time to time, proposals have been made which would bring these forces into the open. One, which came up unsuccessfully on a number of occasions in the last decade, would have established a national economic council as an advisory body to Congress.

This body would include members of the so-called farm bloc, of labor, of the key industries. It would be permitted to offer its point of view openly when issues affecting it came up for debate.

Lack of authoritative information has been cited as a prime cause of congressional malfunctioning. One resolution designed to correct this condition has already been adopted. Under the sponsorship of Senator George of Georgia, Congress created a Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Problems, which is to be staffed with specialists in the fields with which postwar legislation will have to deal.

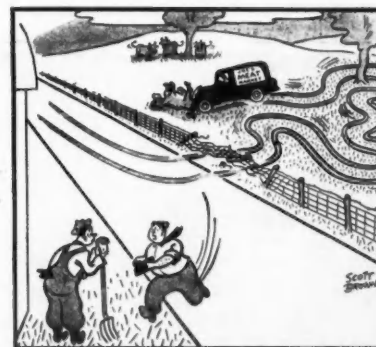
A critical public has shown signs of impatience, but though as yet they turn slowly, the wheels of change are in motion.

♦ SMILES ♦

Don't worry about butter. You can make it from grass. All you need is a cow and a churn.
—WALL STREET JOURNAL

We nominate for the Hall of Fame the calm and cool Marine who, when captured by some cannibals on a South Sea island, said to them:

"Let me see your ration cards."
His buddies rescued him before the natives could use up their points.
—PARADE



"Sorry, mister, but my delivery boy just hit one of your cows. How much do I owe you?"

Young Mother: "What in the world do you want to buy a crib with such high sides for?"

Young Father: "Well, then it'll be easier to hear him when he falls out."
—WALL STREET JOURNAL

"What were you doing after the accident?"
 "Oh, just scraping up an acquaintance."
 —JACK-O-LANTERN

"Did you do much fighting during the last war, pa?"

"I did my share of it, sonny."
 "Did you make the enemy run?"
 "Yes, my boy, I certainly did."
 "And did they catch you, pa?"

A traveling salesman dropped in on a businessman whose desk was covered with letters, papers, and magazines. The businessman was busily writing a memo and greeted the salesman with: "I'm very busy this morning, very busy!"

Glancing at the desk, the salesman replied: "Well, I'm very glad to know that. I kinda thought you were just confused."

—LABOR

Prospective Roomer: "This window is quite small. It wouldn't be much good in an emergency."

Landlady: "There ain't going to be any emergency, mister. My terms are cash in advance." —LABOR

A man is as old as he feels. A woman is as old as she feels—like admitting.
—NAVY NEWS

The Story of the Week

Invasion Forebodings

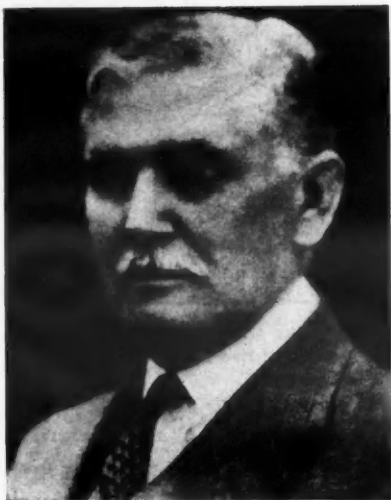
The world waited nervously last week for an Allied invasion of Europe which looked as though it might come at any moment. Night and day, swarms of bombers pounded the little island of Pantelleria, stepping-stone between Tunisia and Italy. The feeling of expectancy was heightened when Winston Churchill and our chief of staff, General Marshall, chose this theater as the site of a new conference. Before they left for home, rumor established that the date of invasion had been set.

Resistance from the Italian islands and southern mainland has grown weaker as our preliminary air attacks gathered momentum. The main question is whether the Italians plan to hold their force for invasion itself, or whether Hitler has decided to let Italy go altogether as a lost cause.

In another theater, air activity was also at a high point. Midway between Moscow and the Black Sea, Red Army planes were battling the Luftwaffe in what looked like the opening of the third major Russian campaign. Here again, the timing of a United Nations offensive in Europe loomed as all important. Russia looks to action in the west to draw off a part of Germany's strength from her own forces.

Argentine Coup

A little more than a week ago, revolution swept Argentina's pro-



Ramon S. Castillo

Axis President Ramon Castillo out of power. The revolt, swift and almost bloodless, replaced him with a provisional government of army leaders who have announced themselves as dedicated to hemisphere solidarity, but have given no indication as yet of a positive anti-Axis stand.

Argentina has been a thorn in the side of the United Nations for some time. Steadfastly clinging to a neutral policy, the Argentines have allowed their country to become the South American headquarters for Axis fifth column work. The frankly totalitarian Castillo regime has turned its back on all plans for democratic hemisphere unity.

Just how far the new government will go in changing all this is questionable. At this writing, the revolutionists are still too busy reshuffling positions for the future to be gauged. Already General Rawson, who first



JOHN L. LEWIS, and other officials of the United Mine Workers in a huddle over the strike crisis.

took over as president, has been supplanted by General Ramirez, minister of war under Castillo.

Few observers believe that the new government will make Argentina a democratic country. The army is known to be highly conservative, and its only point of difference with ex-President Castillo is that its leaders no longer believe the Axis can win the war, while Castillo held to the idea of a Nazi victory until his overthrow.

Labor Developments

Some 540,000 coal miners went back to their jobs last week after an order from President Roosevelt and the declaration of a new truce period by UMW Leader John L. Lewis. The new deadline has been set for June 20, and until it arrives, discussions on the United Mine Workers' wage grievances will continue.

At the Capitol, another deadline had been set. This one concerned the antistrike legislation now being considered in both houses of Congress. Senator Connally, sponsor of the Senate version, urged senators and representatives to compromise between his bill and that of Representative Smith and finish a no-strike law before the end of the week.

In its present form, the Connally-Smith bill would make those instigating strikes in war plants liable to fines and imprisonment. It would also increase the authority of the War Labor Board to investigate and decide on labor disputes.

The President's point of view has not yet been made clear. War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes has approved the antistrike bill, but spokesmen of the administration are still to be heard from on the wage aspect of the controversy. Although the dispute between the government and the miners has now been dragging on for some time, no decision has been made as to whether or not general wage increases will be approved.

Propaganda Methods

More and more it is being realized that truth is the best propaganda. Recognition of this fact has led the British Broadcasting Corporation to revise its German language radio-casts drastically; it has abandoned any kind of purely emotional or boasting propaganda, and it aims to enlighten, not to persuade, its listeners.

Transmitting on long, middle, and short waves, so that its message can be heard by Germans who own even cheap receiving sets with limited reception, BBC sends out half-hour messages several times each day. News from the fighting fronts predominates; no attempt is made to gloss over Allied setbacks or to exaggerate Axis losses. The simple truth of the matter, repeated over and over, has proved to be far more effective.

Germans are learning through these broadcasts about the widespread unrest in Occupied Europe, and about the work of the underground movement. They are told about the "black lists" of German criminals who will be punished after the war for their crimes against humanity. They are reminded that Germany now must defend a front line of 12,000 miles as compared to a front in 1918 of only 2,400 miles.

One of the most effective methods is to play recordings of speeches by various high Nazi officials, exposing the frequent lies, mistakes, and contradictions in these speeches. There is abundant evidence that these new propaganda methods are doing much to shake the faith of the German people in their Fuehrer and his henchmen.

Congressional Debate

Congress has frequently been criticized in recent months because of its delaying on important measures, its filling of valuable hours with windy debate, sometimes on topics of no great importance. The lengthy debate a few days ago on the poll-

tax bill, a nonwar measure, is a case in point.

There is another side to the picture—one which is equally disturbing. Many important measures are rushed through both houses of Congress with hardly a word of debate. Dr. Floyd M. Riddick, an authority on congressional procedure, points out in the *American Political Science Review* that in the 1942 sessions, only one bill was debated enough to require as much as 600 pages in the *Congressional Record*; 114 bills took only from five to 10 pages each. Only 63 out of a total of 912 measures in the Senate were debated in any real sense at all, and of the 836 measures passed by the House, only 102 involved enough discussion to take up three pages in the *Record*.

It is a striking fact that senators were once criticized because they urged that at least one day should be spent in debating an appropriation bill of \$43,000,000,000.

Prisoners of War

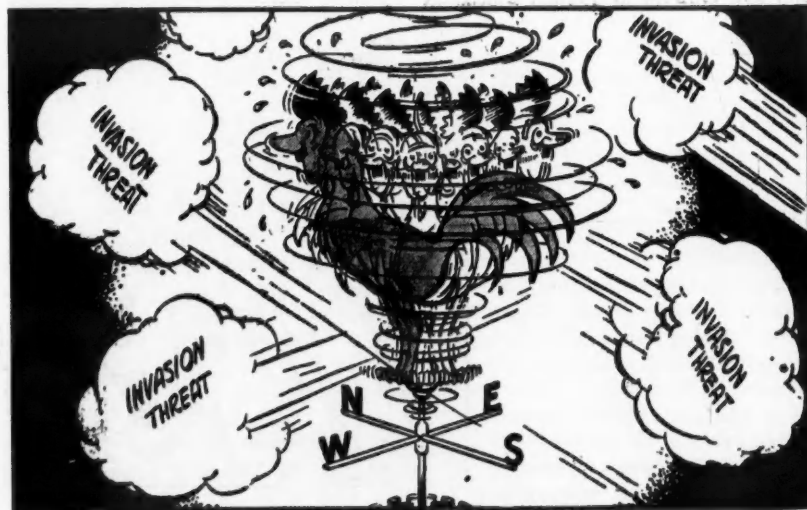
Behind barbed wire enclosures all over the world, between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 men are now held as prisoners of war. Nearly 37,000 of these are in various camps in our own country. And in the United States, as elsewhere, these men are being put to work to relieve a critical manpower situation.

Enlisted men among the prisoners are housed in Army-guarded barracks and governed by their own noncommissioned officers. They wear old World War I uniforms dyed green and stamped with the letters PW. Their food is the same as the rations given our soldiers.

Work, which is not compulsory for officer prisoners, is paid at the rate of 80 cents a day. Only 10 cents of this goes to the worker-prisoner, however; the rest must be made up by his home government and paid to him after the end of the war. The prisoners' labor, most of which is in harvesting and cultivating crops, is done on a five-day, 48-hour week.

U-Boat Decline

Even Berlin communiqués now indicate that the United Nations' shipping situation has taken a turn for the better. Warning that all claims are highly inflated, British and American authorities point to Germany's figures on merchant sinkings in the last few months. Even with the Axis



"Wind Up!"

BUTTERWORTH IN MANCHESTER DAILY DISPATCH

keeping score, the drop since March of this year has been a matter of 479,000 tons.

This does not mean that Germany has been slowing down her U-boat effort. Rather, it shows that our counterattacks on the submarine menace are proving successful. According to Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, A. V. Alexander, the number of submarines destroyed in the last year is greater than that for the whole previous period of the war.

Aircraft patrols, operating from the English coast, have been among our most useful weapons. Destroyer escorts and improved depth charges have also helped bring about our rally in the Atlantic battle. But a large part of the credit goes to new, and still secret, detection and range-finding devices which are now in use.

Production, too, is keeping pace. American shipyards have reached the 20,000,000 ton mark in their output of ships, and the last few months

their greatest victories last week. Not only did they succeed in removing the danger to their capital, but they inflicted heavy losses on the invader and recaptured several key towns in the Yangtze valley.

Encouraging as this news is, it does not mark the end of China's crisis. The enemy action of recent months has been more than military in its scope. As a result of the fact that Japan now holds large portions of Hopei and Hunan provinces, the food situation, perilous at best, has taken another downward turn.

Some of the richest rice fields of eastern Asia are located in these two provinces. In the struggle against spreading famine, Generalissimo Chiang's government had looked to them for relief. Now food prices have mounted to between 60 and 70 times the pre-war level, and there can be little hope of improvement.

This fact, coupled with the new trend of Japanese policy toward conquered Chinese territories, is softening morale. Overlords of the occupied puppet states in northern and eastern China now pursue a gentler line of administration. Loans and concessions are the new order of the day, and Japan is making every effort to placate China into the surrender which six years of force have not been able to bring about.

The United Nations are not unaware of the danger. It is believed that the most recent Roosevelt-Churchill talks were concentrated in part on finding new ways of aid to China. Both Japan and the Allies realize that China's physical endurance depends upon how well the spirit of resistance can be maintained—and that even such a spirit as the Chinese have displayed is not immune to friendly overtures from the enemy.



Early fruits from the victory garden
C. S. MONITOR

have seen the number of new vessels in every class ahead of the rate of sinkings.

The Fourth Term

President Roosevelt's political fate hinges upon the date of Allied victory, according to a recent Gallup poll on the fourth term issue. Having found that a great majority of Democrats favor the President's nomination in 1944, Gallup's interviewers took their count on the basis of three possible situations.

The first assumes that the war is still going on when election day arrives. Fifty-six per cent of the people interviewed said they would vote for a fourth term in this case.

The second question the pollers asked was, "If the war is not entirely over next year, but looks as though it might be over soon, do you think you will vote for or against Roosevelt for a fourth term?" Here 51 per cent of the voters were for Roosevelt and 49 per cent against.

The third count assumed the war to be finished. The pro-Roosevelt vote dropped to 31 per cent and 69 per cent of the interviewees voted against the fourth term. In the last election, too, the state of the war played an important part. As reported by Gallup findings, the President's popularity did not show a major upswing until summer 1940 brought the fall of France and a dark outlook for the anti-Nazi cause.

China's Crisis

With the city of Chungking gravely menaced by advancing Japanese columns, China's armies scored one of

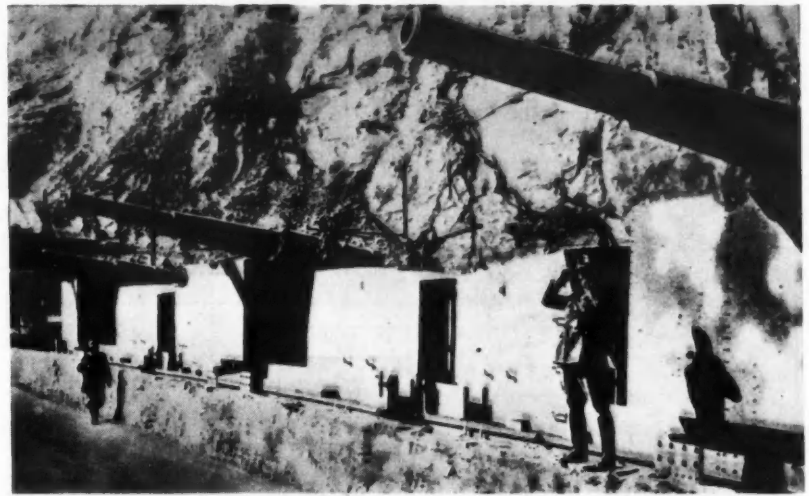
their greatest victories last week. Not only did they succeed in removing the danger to their capital, but they inflicted heavy losses on the invader and recaptured several key towns in the Yangtze valley.

Encouraging as this news is, it does not mark the end of China's crisis. The enemy action of recent months has been more than military in its scope. As a result of the fact that Japan now holds large portions of Hopei and Hunan provinces, the food situation, perilous at best, has taken another downward turn.

Some of the richest rice fields of eastern Asia are located in these two provinces. In the struggle against spreading famine, Generalissimo Chiang's government had looked to them for relief. Now food prices have mounted to between 60 and 70 times the pre-war level, and there can be little hope of improvement.

This fact, coupled with the new trend of Japanese policy toward conquered Chinese territories, is softening morale. Overlords of the occupied puppet states in northern and eastern China now pursue a gentler line of administration. Loans and concessions are the new order of the day, and Japan is making every effort to placate China into the surrender which six years of force have not been able to bring about.

The United Nations are not unaware of the danger. It is believed that the most recent Roosevelt-Churchill talks were concentrated in part on finding new ways of aid to China. Both Japan and the Allies realize that China's physical endurance depends upon how well the spirit of resistance can be maintained—and that even such a spirit as the Chinese have displayed is not immune to friendly overtures from the enemy.



AS ITALY PREPARED for invasion. Mussolini released pictures such as the above to show Italian coastal fortifications.

sciousness and wipe out their cultural background.

It is also a matter of sheer robbery. Many of the high Nazis are ardent "art-lovers." Goering, Ribbentrop, Himmler, Funk—even Hitler—have fought among themselves for the best jewels of Europe's priceless art, and each maintains large private collections. Galleries and museums all over Germany are swollen with the hundreds of paintings, tapestries, and sculptured pieces which have been gathered up systematically by units trained specially for their job. Art experts and historians have carefully catalogued and studied the expected loot in each occupied country, and have directed its removal to places within Germany.

Today in the museums of Norway and France, the Low Countries, Poland, and Greece, hang empty frames by the thousands from which famous paintings have been ruthlessly cut.

Only a few special treasures were removed before the invaders came. Flemish and French tapestries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were torn from the walls of the castles in Poland, Austria, and France; whole collections of bronze and marble sculptures were taken from Poland and Greece. Even castles themselves were violated—in the Royal Castle Warsaw and in the famous castles of the Loire, even wall ornamentations were hacked off and sent to the Reich.

Not the least of the problems after the war will be the restitution of this stolen property. In many cases the robbery has been carried on behind a thin veil of "legal" transactions; in other cases the finest works of Rembrandt, Titian, Raphael, and El Greco have passed through many hands—some have even been sold in Japan. The job of tracing them will be extremely difficult.

Nazi Art Theft

It was recently estimated by the Board of Economic Warfare that the Germans have looted Europe of \$36,000,000,000 worth of assorted goods, from household goods and park benches to entire factories which were dismantled and carted away to the Reich. Among these stolen goods are almost all Europe's famous art treasures.

In perpetrating history's greatest art theft, the Nazis have two purposes. "Art is a nation's noblest defense," said Adolf Hitler once. In line with this philosophy, the Nazis have attempted to rip out the very roots of the culture of the conquered peoples, to snatch away anything which might feed their souls and lift morale. It is part of a calculated plan to destroy their national con-

So serious have become the constant raids on Essen and other German industrial centers that the inhabitants by the thousands are finding excuses to move to other places. The German government highly disapproves of this mass exodus, and has issued warnings that the migrants must not expect to return to their home cities and find their places waiting for them after the war.

Scientists have announced the discovery of a new double star weighing approximately 100 times as much as the sun, or 200 billion billion tons. This star—which is to be known as Ry—is actually made up of two stars which revolve around each other in a period of 11 days.

It is predicted that by August 1 of this year the Pan-American Highway will be ready for travel all the way from the United States to Panama. United States Army engineers are now working on stretches of the road in Costa Rica, near the Canal Zone. Links of the road are completed or in the process of construction in South America, and by 1945 it is hoped that travelers can go all the way from Alaska to Buenos Aires by automobile—if the war is over.

Some time ago the government announced that it needed long blond hair which had never been curled with irons or other instruments. The hair was to be used in various kinds

News Items in Brief

of precision instruments. But so many people sent in blond tresses that the Office of War Information has announced that no more hair will be needed by the government for a long, long time.

In less than two and a half years the amount of unemployment in this country has been cut from 7,100,000 to only 900,000. Of the 500,000 men and 400,000 women who are now unemployed, most are in-between-jobs or are incapable of sustained work.



JOSEPH E. DAVIES, as he returned to this country carrying Stalin's message to President Roosevelt.

The American Observer

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, 12¢ a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington 6, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Civic Education Service Publications
The American Observer
Weekly News Review
The Junior Review
The Young Citizen
The Civic Leader

EDITORIAL BOARD
Francis L. Bacon Harold G. Moulton
Charles A. Beard David S. Muzzey
Walter E. Myer, Editor

Executive Editor Managing Editor
Andre de Forry Clair Coss

Senior Editor
Paul D. Miller
Associate Editors
J. Hubert Anderson Kenneth F. Weaver
Anne Crutcher
Art Editor
Kermit Johnson



(Concluded from page 1)

The rest of the empire came under the new committee through the Giraud administration. French Guiana (65,000 square miles and 37,000 people), the famous prison colony in South America, joined the Giraud forces in March of this year. As for the great expanse of French North and West Africa, an abortive expedition against Dakar by the Free French in September 1940 was unsuccessful, and it remained for the American and British occupation, with Free French aid, to add the 30,000,000 people and almost 3,000,000 square miles of French West Africa, Algeria, Tunis, and French Morocco, and thus complete the reunion of the French empire.

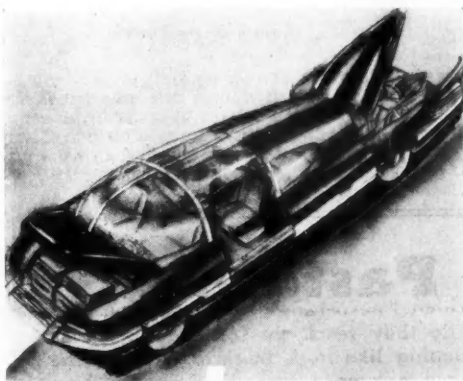
War Changes America

either 150 men or a 20-ton cargo, while the 80-ton B-19 was designed to transport 125 fully armed men, or an equally large cargo of freight. One of the leading aircraft builders, moreover, is planning a craft which will carry 400 passengers.

For private, non-commercial flying, there will be foolproof flivver planes, priced to sell at little more than the cost of the average automobile. The helicopter, well known for its capacities to rise and descend vertically, hover motionless in the air, and move sideways, is also proclaimed as the family "car" of the air age.

Despite the known possibilities of air transport and travel, however, a word of caution is in order. As one of the big air lines has recently stated in a widely circulated advertisement, we should not expect the airplane to take over all transportation. Other forms of transportation will remain and be improved, it said, and the airplane—larger, speedier, and more numerous—will serve where speed is essential.

2. Other transportation. The



MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED FROM ACME

Will the automobile of tomorrow look like this?

streamlined, Diesel-powered railroad train had become quite common before the war, and will be seen in growing numbers afterward. For the railroads will have to provide clean, speedy, efficient service if they are to compete with the airlines for passengers.

The wildest dreams in automobile designs may be longer in coming true than we have been led to believe. The manufacturers themselves, in recent months, have spoken in more cautious terms than have individuals outside the industry. But the trend is toward somewhat lighter cars, with perhaps greater use made of the light metals and plastics. More economical engines, powered by some of the new gasoline mixtures developed during this war, are in prospect. One difficulty in predicting how rapidly changes may occur in this field is the fact that the manufacturers may be under considerable pressure to compete with family model airplanes. On the other hand, if they make small airplanes themselves, there might be less market competition between the family car and the family plane.

Whatever shape the postwar car takes, it will travel on super highways—broad, straight, and free from dangerous intersections and railroad crossings. The building of these highways will be one of the major projects in postwar public works.

3. Housing. As we pointed out in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER last week, the great majority of houses which

will be built after the war will probably be prefabricated. Quickly and easily constructed, the houses will feature new materials—stronger plywood, plastics with colors molded into them. Inside the houses we will find many conveniences to make housework easier, to protect health, and to insure more pleasant living.

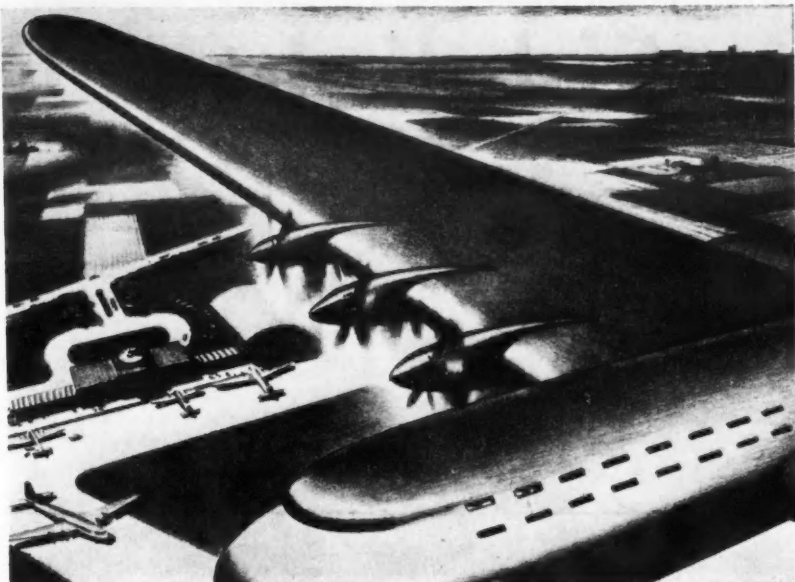
The building of these houses, both to satisfy demands unfulfilled during the war and to correct bad housing which existed before the war, will provide a major source of postwar employment.

4. Communications. The big advance in communications after the war will take place chiefly in television, while radio by itself will feature frequency-modulation—broadcasting free from static and other interference. That television will progress rapidly is freely predicted, both by government officials and industrial leaders who are in close touch with it.

The instrument which they foresee is a \$200 set—about half the price of a good prewar set—which will bring in crystal clear pictures. The pictures will be black and white; color television, while greatly improved, is not expected on the market for some years. In addition to the eight stations now in existence, 22 more were under way when war halted their construction. Not only will these be completed, but it is confidently predicted that within five years after the war 200 stations will be serving the nation's most populated areas. Within 10 years, moreover, every nook and corner will be reached.

5. Medicine. From the standpoint of science, medical men are perfecting new remedies and new treatments in wartime, and these will be at the service of the postwar world.

More significant, however, is the strong possibility that the medical profession will move—by choice or necessity—toward group, or cooperative, practice. Small beginnings in this direction were made before the war, despite considerable opposition and controversy. Since the war began, many industries have adopted the policy of providing greater health protection for their workers, and have thus provided an example of



UNITED AIR LINES

THE PLANE OF TOMORROW. Giant transport and cargo planes will be one of the characteristics of the postwar era.

one type of group medicine. These experiments may well affect the organization of medicine when the war is over.

6. Materials. The progress of plastics, somewhat interrupted by the war, seems bound to resume. The variety of raw materials from which plastics can be made is as imposing as the number of things which can be manufactured from plastics.

The tremendous production of light metals—aluminum and magnesium—built up for the war program will be on hand to serve civilian peacetime needs. Nevertheless, the traditional wood and steel are not to be dismissed. The lumber industry's mainstay is plywood—strips of wood glued and pressed into a variety of thicknesses, some thin for panels and some thick for girders. Its strength and durability are excellent.

Man-made rubber will head the list of synthetic materials which will come into wide use. A big development may also take place in the production of synthetic fabrics, not necessarily intended to replace natural fabrics entirely, but to supplement them.

7. Food. The great development of dehydrated foods which has taken place to fulfill wartime needs may lead to a change in the appearance of the family larder. In addition to the traditional fresh and canned foods, the housewife will select menus from her supplies of dehydrated and frozen foods. Her choices will depend on costs and time required for preparation, and she can

achieve a greater variety in her meals. The entire food-processing industry may thus undergo striking changes.

8. Power. The extension of electric power lines to new areas of the nation and at lower costs seems bound to go forward after the war, continuing the progress made in this direction before the war. As new sources of hydroelectric power are tapped and costs lowered, not only will there be lighting for more and more homes, but electricity may become a leading "fuel" for heat. Greater industrial use will also be made of it.

How the war is affecting the nation's reserves of coal and petroleum is a matter of speculation. Especially in the case of oil, there are some experts who believe that our reserves will be drained by war needs to a dangerously low point—perhaps to exhaustion. But this opinion is not universally shared by petroleum authorities, so we do not know for certain what to expect.

Should the pessimistic view prove correct, science will have to find substitutes. A motor fuel made from grain alcohol might be one answer.

9. Government and Industry. In the relations between government and industry, it is believed the government will exercise a greater degree of control than it did before the war. Many of the wartime controls themselves will probably remain in effect after the armistice and will be relaxed only gradually during the process of converting back to peacetime production and employment.

That greater government control may be expected in the long run is a view held by many business leaders themselves. For example, this is what Eric A. Johnston, re-elected this spring as president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, says:

"There is a growing realization that only as the whole country prospers can business prosper; that the welfare of business is tied in with the welfare of labor and agriculture. There is a growing realization by business that the day of unbridled capitalism is past; that as our civilization becomes more complex, greater controls become essential. It is important that we should not allow our conflicts over methods of control to keep us from the unity we must have, among all segments of our economic life, if we are to gain the full measure of benefits which the capitalistic system can yield."



CELOTEX CORP.

TELEVISION SETS are likely to be one of the features of the house of tomorrow.

Sidelights On The News



PROGRESS IS UNDER WAY in coordinating the agriculture of the two Americas. The above scene is in Peru.

GENERAL MARSHALL, our Chief of Staff, has a number of excellent right-hand assistants, but none more important than Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell, who heads the Army Service Forces. Condensing an article from *Life* by Charles J. V. Murphy, the *Reader's Digest* features the following analysis of the personality behind the title:

The job which Somervell fills calls for a hard, uncompromising man. He is obliged to tell the strategists, when they plan the campaigns, what they can expect in men, munitions, and material on the fighting fronts.



Gen. Somervell

"Army Service Forces is set up to do nearly everything but the actual fighting," says Somervell. It receives raw recruits (Service Commands), feeds, houses, and clothes the Army (Quartermaster), builds the camps and roads and bridges (Construction and Engineers), pays off the troops (Finance Division), acts as policeman and judge (Provost Marshal and Judge Advocate), provides the weapons for killing the enemy (Ordnance), runs the communications (Signal Corps), moves the troops and supplies (Transportation), cares for the wounded (Surgeon General), and ministers to the soul (Corps of Chaplains). Army Service Forces employs nearly 1,000,000 civilians, and in the 8,200,000 man army being built this year, one man out of four will belong to ASF.

General Somervell's outstanding contribution to the war effort has really been in the realm of national discipline. It was he who first raised the issue between the civilian's butter and the fighting man's guns. "I am not trying to wipe out the civilian," he says, "but if the Army is to have enough to win, the civilian economy must be cut to the bone. My ambition is to see the U. S. Army the best-equipped, best-fed, most mobile army on earth. Nobody's going to court-martial me if I give it too much. But if I give it too little, a court-martial will be much too good for me."

Pan-American Agriculture

One of the most important fields in which the nations of our hemisphere can work together for the betterment of all concerned is agriculture. By mutual planning, the twin continents of North and South America can coordinate various phases of farm production for maximum prosperity in this half of the globe. In the current issue of *Agriculture in the Americas*, Ross E. Moore offers some suggestions:

In agricultural production, processing, and trade, problems of common

interest to many or all of the American Republics—appropriate subjects for profitable collaboration—exist in quantity far greater than the hemisphere's combined collaborative capacity. One well-known fact worth repeating is that every single country in Central or South America produces to some extent agricultural commodities which North America must import.

The most important complementary agricultural commodities include rubber, vegetable insecticides, vegetable fibers other than cotton, medicinal plant products (quinine), certain vegetable oils, essential oils, and spices. The United States imports almost its

entire supply of these commodities. The best environment for production of most of them is in the humid tropics, with their high rainfall and high temperature. At the same time, crops yielding these commodities have been cultivated relatively little to not at all in this hemisphere.

It follows that an increase in production of complementary commodities in the Western Hemisphere is both desirable and possible. But the important factors determining the increase are the speed and effectiveness with which we distribute our production experience. Only by planned distribution of our techniques can we bring about the establishment of stable agriculture.

OCD After Two Years

For two years now, this country has been training and rehearsing a force of civilians to handle home front protection in the event of aerial attacks. An estimate of their present capability is given by OCD Director James M. Landis in the *New York Times Magazine*:

If increasing pressure of our armed forces with continued strengthening of our sea lines of supply—or merely the desire to bolster morale—should cause the enemy to strike at our home front, how would we, as civilians, meet that test?

It would be folly to deny the need for more advanced training in the operations a concentrated attack might require, or the need for more drill in meeting the challenge of new bombing tactics. And we know that experience alone makes skilled veterans. Yet the civilian forces did their job well at

Pearl Harbor, with far less training than most of our forces have had. And they did not flinch when Dutch Harbor was attacked. Almost every week has brought reports of the eager and efficient response of Civilian Defense units when natural disasters—storms, fires, or floods—have called for action not unlike their air raid duties.

The spirit of our civilian protective



H. M. LAMBERT PHOTO

Civilian defense worker

forces has shown itself in every emergency, and it would not be surprising to hear, if bombers appeared, an echo of the cry of newly formed British Civil Defense units when the first fire bombs fell: "Send us some more!"

Mediterranean War Pastorale

Even in the midst of battle there is beauty to be found. Writing in the *New York Herald Tribune*, John O'Reilly gives an imaginative description of action in the Mediterranean theater:

In warfare, as in all of life, the most efficient things are beautiful. The most effective knife has a cold grace. The deadliest field gun is a thing of tapered symmetry. A battle is not lovely in detail, but in panorama it is a spectacle of movement, color, and sound.

Could it be viewed from some Olympian vantage point, the offensive now being waged by the Allied air forces against the island outposts of the Axis in the Mediterranean would rank as the loveliest sight in warfare, a fantasy of destruction.

The Mediterranean springtime is being replaced by lazy summer. It is like June in New York state, but softer. The Mediterranean blue is at its richest. The sky seems a paler reflection of the sea. Along the African shore, towns and cities stand out clear in the sunlight. Over red-tiled roofs, swallows and chimney swifts dart in squeaky dogfights. Coastal mountains behind the towns are blurred in a soft haze and topped by sporadic white clouds. The sea is a still blue pond with the island objectives floating in its center.

As dawn comes to this theater of aerial war, it is not unlike a meadow pond on a still summer day. With the first light the planes begin to stir in their sleeping places like insects rousing to their daily struggle for existence. They rise in swarms, and drone out between the blue of the sea and the blue of the sky.

P-40's, like so many determined wasps, circle their nests and buzz out over the water. Clouds of P-38's, lighter in build and more airy, dance through the still air like May flies. Sometimes they dance along above flights of A-20 tiger beetles, or formations of B-25's resembling blunt medium-sized dragonflies in their direct flight.

Passing through the haze over the green mountains and over the red and white towns, the flights zoom over the edge of the pond where naval patrol vessels swim the erratic paths of water beetles. Fanning out, the aerial flotillas wing toward the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Pantelleria.

They are followed by stubby B-26's, bumping through the bright air like fat June beetles amid groups of Spitfires with the graceful flight of damselflies. All are drawn to the floating islands in the center of the pond.

No sooner do they reach their island objectives than guns, squatting like frogs in recesses along the shore, dart out red tongues to bring them down. There are slender-bodied pickerel frogs, stockier pond frogs, and some have the chopping bark of the carpenter frog. As they go into chorus, planes which inhabit the islands rise to meet the invading flights. The wild dance begins, with the mechanical insects zooming, darting, and diving over the islands.

Suddenly the islands burst into bloom. Flames like swamp cardinal flowers leap up. Blobs of smoke rise and unfold like the broad blossoms of water lilies. Some are white. Some are black or gray, and if their roots are in a chemical plant, they may be shades of green or blue. Nearby the dance continues. Now and again, a plane drops into the sea as a May fly, having fulfilled its brief function, drifts down on to the surface of the pond.

The dance is over, but as the flights drone away the smoke blossoms continue to unfold. The day has warmed up by now, and the returning swarms may pass beneath Flying Fortresses, the great long-bodied dragonflies of this pond. Like the big dragonflies they roam farther afield in search of coarser fare on the Italian mainland. When they reach their targets, the scenes of the flowery islands are repeated.

When the blue and pink Mediterranean twilight has passed and the stars are riding high in a black sky, the struggle continues in its nocturnal form. Again there is a stir and a hum as the things of the night make ready to leave their hiding places.

Black Beaufighters traveling like bats begin to make their journeys over the pond. Wellingtons, like the heavy-bodied sphinx moths that seek out pond blossoms at dusk, are drawn to the same islands over which the daylight dances took place. They, too, cause them to blossom. Now they are gardens of color, with red and white bursts and strings of glowing beads reaching up into the night sky.

The creatures of the night drone homeward as did the things of the day. There may be a few hours during which the pond is lifeless, but with dawn the cycle is repeated. It has gone on thus for days and nights without interruption.

But the beauty in all of this is only a by-product. The men who fly the planes often speak of it, but they know that their task, though necessary, is anything but lovely. The job itself is an ugly one.